

Remarks

In response to the Office Action (restriction requirement) of September 29, 2006 in the above-identified patent application, Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group I (Claims 5-13) with traverse, and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of the Group II claims is sufficiently related to the subject matter of the Group I claims to allow for examination of all of the claims together. It is difficult to see how such a single examination would create any serious burden on the Patent Office. In fact, Applicants submit that a single examination may even be more economical.

In addition to the above, new method claims 17-18 are being added. New claims 17-18 depend from elected claim 12.

In the event that the restriction requirement is not withdrawn, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the non-elected claims of Group II (Claims 14-16) in a later application.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew G. Kolomayets
Registration No. 33,723

COOK, ALEX, MCFARRON, MANZO,
CUMMINGS & MEHLER, LTD.
200 West Adams Street - #2850
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 236-8500